



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY January 18, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Amazing Grace
Mike Norman

arr. Kerrick

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Sing a new song!

Many: We sing a song of thanks and praise!

One: For God has done wonderful deeds!

All: God is great beyond compare! Let us worship God!

***Hymn (#744)**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you.

We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground.
God has not withheld mercy from us.

**All: We trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God
and we know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

***Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace**

***Congregational Response (#605)**

Praise to God the Father

*Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#456, refrain)

Listen, God is Calling

*Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 40:1-11

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Anthem

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Second Scripture Lesson

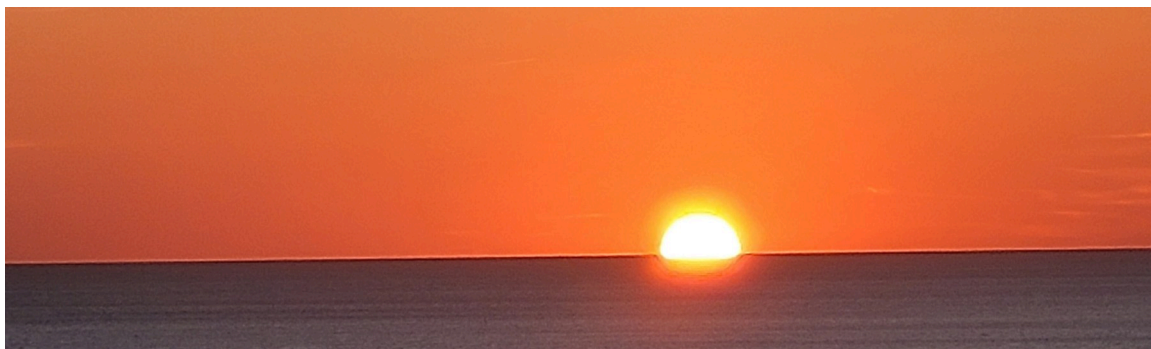
Isaiah 49:1-7

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Sermon

Reaching

Rev. R.C. Griffin III



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

From A Declaration of Faith

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.

Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Amen.

***Hymn (#3)**

Womb of Life and Source of Being

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Jesus Paid It All/Whiter Than Snow

arr. Lamb

***Congregational Response (#69, refrain)**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise.

**All: Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives, not as vain sacrifice,
but as a joyful response for your steadfast love.**

One: Use what you have given us to your glory in every place.

**All: Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life,
and a balm of healing for all of creation. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#853)**

We Are Marching in the Light of God

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Cornet Voluntary

John Travers

***Please rise, in body or spirit.**



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news, and more!

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
 SM
 (this tune in a lower key, B15)

DA N'ASE
Irregular

Listen, God Is Calling

456

Refrain

Neno lake Mungu

Leader *All*

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.
ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma, ma.

Leader *All*

1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader *All* *to Refrain*

that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

This anonymous Swahili hymn from Kenya follows a pattern of traditional African music (refrain, call-and-response stanzas, refrain) also common in African American spirituals. This text affirms that God's inviting and forgiving call can still be heard through the written Word.

TEXT: Kenyan; trans. Howard S. Gibson, 1987

MUSIC: Kenyan; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1987

English lyrics: © 1987 Lutheran Theological College, Makumbi (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

Mus. Arr. © 1987 Austin C. Lovelace (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

NENO LAKE MUNGU

6.4.6.4 with refrain

Womb of Life and Source of Being 3

Capo 1: (G) A^b (Am) B^bm (C) D^b (G) A^b (Em) Fm

1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - ery
 2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us
 3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
 4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it,

(C) D^b (Dsus) E^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (G7) A^b7 (C) D^b

rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened;
 sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us,
 be our friend. When our mem - ory fails, re - mind us
 On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er,

(Am) B^bm (Dsus) E^b (D) E^b (Am) B^bm

you have loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren,
 know - ing weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our
 whose we are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us;
 one - in - three and three - in - one. We would share your

(C) D^b (G) A^b (Am) B^bm (G) A^b (D) E^b (Em) Fm

gath - er 'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing
 hu - man strug - gles, Life of Life and Death of Death, ris - en
 aid the birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of
 life, your pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er

(Bm) Cm (D) E^b (G) A^b (G7) A^b7 (C) D^b (D7) E^b7 (G) A^b

sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Old and new metaphors drawn from Psalm 23; John 1:14, 14:26, 20:19-23; Hebrews 5:1-10; and Genesis 1:1-2 combine here to express faith in and praise to the Triune God, identified as Source, Word, and Spirit. The second line of stanza two is adapted from Charles Wesley (see no. 119).

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

TEXT: *South African*; English trans. Gracia Grindal, 1984

MUSIC: *South African*; arr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

English trans. and Music Arr. © 1994 Utreyck (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

SIYAHAMBA
 Irregular

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...